

Special Publication #1

CHICAGO AMERICAN INDIAN ORAL HISTORY PILOT PROJECT

Transcript Description and Index

D'Arcy McNickle Center for the History of the American Indian

Funded by the Illinois Humanities Council

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INTRODUCTION

Twenty-two months after it was funded originally by the Illinois Humanities Council, the Chicago American Indian Oral History Project completed its pilot phase. The extensions allowed by the Program Staff of the IHC, enabled the part-time workers of the project to complete the necessary tasks, making editorial work possible. The manuscript, "Native Voices in the City: The Chicago American Indian Oral History Project," was the result of the efforts of Donald L. Fixico and Lucille St. Germaine, who selected information from the interview transcripts, and the Advisory Committee of the Project is currently considering decisions about publication.

An important aspect to the preparation of transcripts from tape, is the organization of the materials in such a way that the information can be used by others interested in the content of the interviews. The Project was committed to creating a basic finding aid, for use by the two repositories for the project materials, Native American Educational Services College Library and Department of Special Collections, The Newberry Library. The format for this aid follows the index and descriptions of the publication, Index to the American Indian Research Project, Suzanne Julin, Judy Zabdyr, Herbert T. Hoover, and Gerald W. Wolff, eds., 1979, South Dakota Oral History Center, Pierre and Vermillion.

A total of twenty-three interviews were completed in the pilot phase of the Chicago American Indian Oral History Project. The individuals selected for the initial interviews were chosen through the direction of the Advisory Committee and the co-directors. The primary goal was to interview elders, the oldest and most knowledgeable of the Chicago Indian community. Amidst the training, interviewers wished to conduct their first sessions with people they knew, and consequently, the first interviewees were chosen based on the network of friendships with the interviewers. The list of people suggested by persons interested in the project from across the community, was at least three times larger than could be done with the resources of the IHC grant. Many more

persons need to be interviewed for a basic record to be fully completed. The Advisory Committee is the first to recognize that the sample of the initial twenty-three interviewees is only minimally representative of the community experience. Many segments of community experience are not represented, and many of the individual responses made to urban life are also not present. The first interviews are a preface to the work needed to be accomplished, and the Advisory Committee and the McNickle Center hope to pursue additional funding for this important historical information collection.

This finding aid represents the work of Dorene Weise, Co-director for the Project, Dee Logan, the Tape Processor for the project, who did much of the indexing work; Rose Summers, Administrative Assistant of the McNickle Center, who helped with the production and proofreading; and the Word Processing Department of the Newberry Library, for production of the text. The secretaries of Institute for Native American Development, Truman College assisted in providing the working drafts.

The proceeds for the sale of this index will be contributed to the Project and used for the support of the efforts to secure additional funding for continuation of oral history collection in the Chicago Indian community.

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History of the American Indian

and

Acting Co-Director, Chicago
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Project

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INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT DESCRIPTIONS
AND SUBJECT LISTINGS

Leroy and Pat Wesaw
 Chicago, Illinois
 Interview: 001

Pat a Mohawk and Leroy a Pottawatomie recount how they met and were married in Chicago. They give us insight to the beginning of some of the Indian Organizations of Chicago.

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Maney, Rose
 Winnebago
 Recorded by Clovia Cosson
 Interview: 002

Rose Maney is a Winnebago from Nebraska. She attended Mission School and was not allowed to speak her native language. Rose and her husband came to Chicago because her husband had a job waiting. Rose, along with her children, are active members of the AIC and the Winnebago Club.

Alcohol, use and abuse, p. 12, 13; American Indian Center, Chicago, p. 10, 19; Bureau of Indian Affairs, p. 3, 4, 5, 18; Children, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 17, 20; Council Fire, Inc., p. 5, 6; Discrimination, p. 4; Education: Elementary, p. 1, 8, 9; Secondary, p. 4; Employment, p. 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 14; Haskell, p. 4; Housing, p. 3, 4; Income, p. 7, 19; Jones, Edith, p. 11; Language: English, p. 1, 2; Tribal, p. 1, 2, 9, 20; Maney, Mary, p. 2; Marriage, p. 2; Medical Services, p. 5; Medicine Lodge, p. 11, 12; Mission School, p. 1; Nebraska Winnebago, p. 1, p. 14; (Omaha) Politics, p. 15, Pow-Wows, p. 7, 9; Relations, among Indians, p. 2, 3, 8, 10, 16; Religion: Indian, p. 11, 12, 13, 14; Non-Indian, p. 10, 11, 12; Reservation, p. 8; Smith, Faith, p. 18; Sioux City, p. 14; St. Seare, Abner, p. 2; Tribal Government, p. 15; Urban Life, comments on, p. 14, 17; Winnebago Club, p. 19.

Skendandore, Amy Lester #003
Chicago, Illinois
Recorded by Peggy Desjarlain
Interview: 003

A Stockbridge, born on the Stockbridge Mohegan Reservation in Winneconne, Wisconsin. She grew up in Wisconsin, married and moved with her husband to Michigan and then to Chicago to find employment. She became Director of the St. Augustines Center, where she worked closely with Father Powell until she retired. She shares her views on education, alcoholism, and urban living.

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Floria Forcia
Chippewa
Recorded by Peggy DesJarlait
Interview: 004

A Chippewa, born on the Bad River Reservation in Odana, Wiscosin, her parents and herself came to Chicago through relocation. She marrie din Chicago, had and raised children there. She received her G.E.D. diploma from the Native American Committee Adult Learning Center and became a G.E.D. instructor in the program, and then went on to work for the Institute for Native American Development at Truman College, and the St. Augustine Center. She discusses her adaptation to Chicago, and her views on education.

Alcohol, rehabilitation, p. 12; Alcohol, use and abuse, p. 12, 13; Bureau of Indian Affairs, p. 2, 3, 7; CETA, p. 10; Children, p. 8; Crime, p. 13; Cultural Tradition, p. 9; Discrimination, p. 5; Education: Elementary, p. 1, Secondary, p. 1, Higher, p. 10, Adult, p. 18; Values, p. 18; Employment, p. 4, 7, 11; Housing, p. 3; Language: Tribal, p. 9; Marriage p. 8; Medical Services, p. 5, 6; NAC Adult Learning Center, p. 10, 11; Odanah, Wisconsin, p. 1; Politics, p. 15; Pow-Wows, p. 17; Relations, among Indians, p. 2; Religion: Indian, p. 17, Non-Indian, p. 11; Relocation, p. 2, 15; Reservation Experiences, p. 4, 10, 12, 14, 16; St. Augustines, p. 11; Urban Life, comments on, p. 4, 13, 14.

Krause, Clarice
 Chippewa
 Recorded by Mae Chevalier
 Interview: 005

Clarice Krause is a Chippewa from White Earth, Minnesota. She attended boarding school where she was not allowed to speak Indian and maintain her traditions. She came to Chicago and found employment in a factory.

Clarice was a board member of the Indian Council Fire, and is presently active with the Senior Site at the American Indian Center.

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Fastwolf, Phyllis #006
5/8/83
Chicago, Illinois
Recorded by Pat Tyson
Interview: 006

A full-blooded American Indian, member of the Sioux tribe, enrolled at Pine Ridge, and also Oneida on her mother's side of the family, she grew up and was educated in South Dakota. She moved to Chicago through relocation, and she and her husband worked, raised a family, and bought a house. She was an activist during the 1960's and 1970's, and recalls the early years of the American Indian Center, the American Indian Movement, and the Native American Committee.

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Peggy DesJarlait
Arikara
Recorded by Clovia Closson
Interview: 007

Peggy Desjarlait is an Arikara Indian from the Fort Berthold Reservation. Peggy and her husband came to Chicago for employment. Peggy had many foster children that she took into her home to raise as her own. She has received her Associates of Arts degree from Truman in Child Development. Presently, she is working at the Child Welfare Program at St. Augustine's.

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Yellow Robe, Rosebud
 Lakota Sioux
 Rapid City
 Interview: 008

Rosebud Yellow Robe is a Lakota who was raised in Rapid City. Rosebud is the sister of Chauncina Whitehorse. Rosebud speaks about her family background. Her father was full blooded Indian and her mother was Swiss. Rosebud gave lectures on Indians to the members of the Museum of Natural History in New York, Women's Club, Schools and libraries. She also taught archery and had a children's story at Long Island in New York.

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Willard LaMere
 Winnebago, Nebraska
 Recorded by Claire Young
 Interview: 009

Willard LaMere is a Winnebago Indian from Nebraska. He came to Chicago for better employment. Willard has been involved in the organizations since the beginning of the Indian Council Fire. He was the director of the American Indian Center. He also graduated from NAES College. Today he is much respected for his involvement.

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Mae Chevalier
Menominee
Record by Dee Logan
Interview: 010

Mae Chevalier is a Menominee Indian from Keshena, Wisconsin. Mae's dream was to come to Chicago, Mae and her husband raised their children here. Mae worked for the NAC Adult Education program as a G.E.D. teacher. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree from NAES recently. Mae is an active member of the Indian Community.

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Marlene Strouse
Chicago, Illinois
Recorded by Mae Chevalier
Interview: 011

A Pima from the Papago tribe from Arizona, she tells us how many of the Indian Organizations got started. Her thoughts show us you can make a life here in Chicago even if your heart is back on the reservation.

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Powers, Ada
Santee Sioux
Nebraska
Recorded by Mae Chevalier
Interview: 012

Ada Powers is a Santee Sioux from Nebraska. She married when she completed school at Haskell. Ada and her husband moved to Chicago to obtain employment. Jobs were plentiful then. Her husband died after returning from the war a sick man. Ada was left alone to raise her children. Later she became a board member of the NAC. Presently, she is an active member of the Senior Site at the AIC.

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Rosella Mars
Chippewa
Recorded by Mae Chevalier
Interview: 013

Rosella Mars is a Chippewa Indian from Lac Du Flambeau. She came to Chicago when the war broke out, so it was easy to get a factory job. Rosella is an active member of the Senior Set at the American Indian Center.

Alcohol, use, p. 8; American Indian Center, Chicago, p. 2, 3, 4, 5; Chicago, p. 1, 5; Crime, p. 9; Discrimination, p. 2, 3; Education, Government School, p. 1; Secondary, p. 1; Employment, p. 1, 2, 6, 8; Food, p. 4; Housing, p. 2, 3, 9; Lac Du Flambeau Reservation, p. 1; Language: English, p. 1, Tribal, p. 1; Medical Services, p. 3, 4; Peterson, Zeta, p. 5; Relations, among Indians, p. 1, 6; Religion: Presbyterian, p. 4; Reservation Experiences, p. 1, 5, 6, 7; Senior Site p. 5; St. Augustine's Center, p. 4; Urban Life, comments on, p. 5.

Young, Claire
Chippewa
Chicago, Illinois
Recorded by Mae Chevalier
Interview: 014

Claire Young is a Chippewa Indian from Lac Du Flambeau in Wisconsin. She attended government schools and quit and came to Chicago. She received her G.E.D. with the help of CETA. She worked for CETA, and later at NAES College. Claire attended NAES College and recently is a graduate from NAES College where she is still presently employed.

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Inez Running Bear Dennison
Roseland Sioux
Interview: 015

Inez Running Bear Dennison is a Rosebud Sioux from South Dakota. Inez and her husband came to Chicago through the relocation act and raised their children here. Inez was active at the American Indian Center when it first organized. She has worked for different organizations in the community. Presently, she is working at O-wai-ya-wa, teaching Indian children.

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Susan Powers
 Yanktonnai
 Recorded by David Miller
 Interview: 016

Susan Powers is a Sioux Indian from The Standing Rock Reservation. Susan speaks about the people who helped get the American Indian Center established, and who established the Indian Community. Her daughter recently graduated from Harvard University.

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Penn, Cornelia
Rosebud Sioux
Recorded by Mae Chevalier
Interview: 017

Cornelia Penn is a Rosebud Sioux from South Dakota. Her family came to Chicago on relocation. Cornelia came to Chicago to get away from her marital problems and try to obtain better employment. She worked for the Native American Committee, Inc., for a while and is interested in taking adult education classes. Cornelia is active with the Senior Citizen Site at the American Indian Center.

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Catches, Vince
Sioux
Chicago, Illinois
Recorded by Clovia Cosson
Interview: 018

Vince Catches is an Oglala Sioux, who was born in Pine Ridge, South Dakota. Vince came to Chicago on the Relocation Act. The BIA helped Vince obtain employment and housing. Vince is a recovered alcoholic who is working at the Bo-Sho-Nee-Gee, a drop in center for American Indians. He has been active in many Indian organizations.

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Ann Lim
 Winnebago
 Recorded by Clare Young
 Interview: 019

Ann Lim is a Winnebago Indian from Wisconsin. Ann and her husband came to Chicago in 1943, and raised her daughter and her niece. She was active with the American Indian Center when it originated on LaSalle Street. Ann worked in factories sewing. Today, Ann is an active member of the Senior Site at the American Indian Center.

Alcohol, use and abuse, p. 17, 29, 30, 31, 32; American Indian Center, Chicago, p. 6, 7, 17, 18, 20, 25, 28, 33; Arrival, Chicago, p. 8; Black River, p. 24; Bureau of Indian Affairs, p. 8, 14; Children, p. 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 29, 30, 31; Council Fire, Inc., p. 28; Crafts, p. 20, 21, 22; Discrimination, p. 10, 35, 36; Drugs, p. 17; Education: Elementary, p. 1, 2, 11, Secondary, p. 11, 13, 14, Higher, p. 13; Values, p. 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 34; Employment, p. 14, 18, 19; Enrollment, p. 7, 8; Family backgrounds, p. 1, 2, 21, 22; Housing, p. 9, 10, 24; Hunter, Edmund, p. 17; Hunting, p. 23; Language: Tribal, p. 4, 25, 26; Leland, Albert, p. 9; Marriage, p. 8, 9, 13, 15; Mission Black River Falls, p. 5; Naguoma, Ernest, p. 18; Nealsville, WI, p. 2; Pow-wows, p. 25; Relations, among Indians, p. 2, 3, 10, 15, 16; Religion: Indian, p. 27, Non-Indian, p. 4, 5, 6, 7, 27, 28, 29; Relocation, p. 9; Senior Site, p. 20, 35; Social Security, p. 25; Stacy, John, p. 5, 6; Stukee, p. 5, 7; Urban life, comments on, p. 36, 37; White Rabbit, Mitchell, p. 6; Widenburg, WI, p. 1; Winnishieks, p. 2, 10, 16, 26.

Battise, Dan
 Alabama Coushatta
 Recorded by Claire Young
 Interview: 020

Dan Battise is a Alabama and Coushatta Indian from Livingston, Texas. Dan enlisted in the Military Service in 1940, and has travelled around the world. He was in the service for eight years and after he was discharged he came to Chicago to make it his home. Dan was involved with the American Indian Center when it was first started, and he also received an award from the Indian Council Fire. Dan is an active volunteer at the American Indian Center.

Alaska, p. 4, 5; Alcohol, use and abuse, p. 3, 14, 15, 16, 23, 24, 26; American Indian Center, Chicago, p. 24, 25, 26, 27; Bureau of Indian Affairs, p. 11; Children, p. 15, 16, 17, 18, 19; Chiloco, Oklahoma Indian School, p. 2; Council Fire, Inc., p. 16, 26; Decorah, Bob, p. 11; Discrimination, p. 11, 14; Disease, p. 13, 18; Drugs, p. 24; Education: Pre-School, p. 1, Elementary, p. 2, Secondary, p. 1, 2, 15; Higher, p. 15; Vocational, p. 2, 3; Values, p. 23, 24; Employment, p. 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 22; Family backgrounds, p. 1, 2, 16, 17, 18, 21, 22; Housing, p. 9, 10; Hunting, p. 21, 22; Language: English, p. 17, Tribal, p. 2, 17; Marriage, p. 8, 16; Medical Services, p. 14; Native American Education Services, p. 24; O'Donnells Frankie, p. 9; Politics, p. 23; Pow-Wows, p. 26; Redcloud, Bill, p. 25, 26, 27; Relations, among Indians, p. 15, 16, 18; Religion: Indian, p. 19, 20, 21; Relocation, p. 26; Selective Service, p. 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 14, 19, 20, 21; Smith, Keely, p. 26; Texas, Houston, p. 4; Urban life, comments on, p. 26.

Redcloud, Margaret
Chippewa
Recorded by Claire Young
Interview: 021

Margaret Redcloud is a Chippewa Indian from White Earth, Minnesota. She moved to Chicago through relocation, and she and her husband worked, and raised a family.

Margaret belonged to the American Indian Center when it was first started in 1953, and is presently the Social Worker at the Indian Center.

Alcohol, rehabilitation, p. 13, 14; Alcohol, use and abuse, p. 12, 13, 14, 15; American Indian Center, Chicago, p. 6, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18; Battise, Ludie, p. 6; Bird, Sandy, p. 6; Bureau of Indian Affairs, p. 3; Children, p. 3, 5, 6, 9; Discrimination, p. 8, 9; Disease, p. 7, 8, 17; Education: Elementary, p. 2, Secondary, p. 2; Higher, p. 4, 5; Employment, p. 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 15; Family backgrounds, p. 1, 2, 16, 17; Hostein, Dorothy, p. 6; Housing, p. 4, 5, 9; Language: Tribal, p. 10, 11; Marivell, Evangeline, p. 6; Marriage, p. 1, 2; Mason, Vivian, p. 6; Medical Services, p. 7, 8; Native American Outpost, p. 13; Relations, among Indians, p. 5, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14; Religion: Indian, p. 10; Non-Indian, p. 10; Relocation, p. 3; Urban life, comments on, p. 12; Welfare, p. 16, 17, 18.

White, Joe
 Winnebago
 Chicago, Illinois
 Recorded by Claire Young
 Interview: 022

Joe White is a Winnebago Indian from the Wisconsin Dells area. He came to Chicago to obtain employment before the Relocation Act. Joe has been involved with the American Indian Center since its development. Joe drums with the Chicago Drum and follows the Pow-Wow circuit. He, with other Indians initiated the Canoe Club at the American Indian Center. He was involved with the Council Fire and the Native American Committee, Inc. Joe and his wife, Mae would like to return to the reservation life after his retirement.

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Joan Takahara
 Chicago, Illinois
 Recorded by Claire Young
 Interview: 023

A Sisseton/Wahpeton Sioux born on the Lake Traverse Reservation in South Dakota. She grew up in various Indian Boarding Schools and moved to Chicago, through relocation, in 1958. Because of family experience, she became very interested in alcohol counseling. She shares her views on education, alcoholism, and Indian Religion.

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